

# THE ARIZONA FIDDLER

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Official Publication of the Arizona Old Time Fiddle Association Inc. Published bi-monthly

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Dave Brinkman, Editor [banjodb@gmail.com](mailto:banjodb@gmail.com)

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Webpage: <http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/> Facebook: [Arizona Old Time Fiddlers Association](#)

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March/April 2026

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Contact Noreen Johnston to pay your dues. [fiddlerslady@aol.com](mailto:fiddlerslady@aol.com) See Form on p. 8

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The AOTFA Webpage has a new look! <https://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/>

## Upcoming Events

**Glendale Folk Festival** February 28-March 1, 2026. Sahuaro Ranch Park in Glendale AZ. Free—with all kinds of vocal/instrumental folk music, jamming and workshops. No camping.

**Lake Havasu Bluegrass** March 6-8. Lake Havasu City, AZ. Lake Havasu State Park. Traditional bluegrass festival with mostly dry camping on the shore of the lake. Excellent entertainment and jamming.

**Desert Bluegrass Festival.** March 13-15, 2026 Gladden Farms Comm Park. Marana, AZ Presented by Desert Bluegrass Assn. of Tucson. Dry camping.

**Salome FiddleFest** March 20-22, 2026. Salome, AZ. **Linda Darland 928-671-0474** for info. Salome Lions Club - Fiddle shows and lots of jamming - Dry RV Parking (Donations appreciated) Friday Lunch - Saturday Breakfast and Dinner. Sign up to play on the Friday or Saturday night program

**Idaho State Fiddle Contest** Mountain Home, ID. April 11, 2026

**Northwest Regional Contest** Spokane Valley, WA. April 17-19, 2026

**Western Idaho Fiddle Contest** Meridian, ID. May 1-2, 2026.

**Nevada State Old Time Fiddlers Contest** Opera House, Eureka, NV. May 15-16, 2026.

**International Peace Garden Fiddle Festival.** Dunseith, ND. June 4-6, 2026.

**National Oldtime Fiddle Contest** Weiser, ID. June 16-21 2026.

**Prescott Bluegrass Festival** Prescott, AZ. June 20-21, 2026.

**Willamette Valley Contest** Corvallis, OR. August 1, 2026

**AOTFA Events List** AOTFA Webpage <http://www.arizonaoldtimefiddlers.org/>

## Yuma Worthen Memorial Contest January 10-11, 2026

<p><b>Small Fry</b> 1 Ivy Barry 2 Chance Vessey 3 Penelope Boggs 3 Ida Cutler</p> <p><b>Junior-Junior</b> 1 Emily Fewkes 2 Clark Huguenin 3 Jayne Huguenin 4 Leah Fewkes 5 Taylor Martin</p> <p><b>Junior</b> 1 Helen Huguenin 2 Elie Barry</p> <p><b>Young Adult</b> 1 Leah Huguenin 2 Suzanne Cox</p>	<p><b>Adult</b> 1 Danielle Bettencourt 2 Aaron Fewkes 3 Corrine Garey 4 Joe Baxter 5 Kris Mannino</p> <p><b>Senior</b> 1 Henry the Fiddler 2 Janet Shelby 3 Dave Brinkman 4 Debbie Dickerson 5 Katie Bonn</p> <p><b>Senior-Senior</b> 1 Al Derrien 2 Dan Everts 3 Fred Lapcheska</p> <p><b>Accompanist</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Anthony Huguenin 3 Paul Dickerson</p>	<p><b>Jr Accompanist</b> 1 Helen Huguenin</p> <p><b>Vocal</b> 1 Brianna Baxter 2 Fred Lapcheska 3 Paul Dickerson</p> <p><b>Jr Vocal</b> 1 Jayne Huguenin</p> <p><b>Twin Fiddle</b> 1 Elie Barry/Danielle Bettencourt 2 Janet Shelby/Kris Mannino 3 Katie Bonn/Dave Brinkman</p> <p><b>Trick and Fancy</b> 1 Danielle Bettencourt 2 Henry the Fiddler 3 Emily Fewkes</p>	<p><b>Grand Champion</b> 1 Aaron Fewkes 2 Danielle Bettencourt 3 Janet Shelby 4 Leah Huguenin 5 Henry the Fiddler</p> <p><b>Other Stringed Instruments</b> 1 Paul Dickerson 2 Leah Huguenin 3 Jayne Huguenin</p> <p><b>Novice</b> 1 Marleigh Martin 2 Fatimah Alhaddadalsayed</p> <p><b>Judges</b> Beth Weber Jess Barry JayDean Ludiker</p>
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## Thank You to Event Organizers

The Yuma, Ajo and Tucson Contests and the Salome Campout were all successful. **THANK YOU** to organizers, supporters, workers, and musicians for making these events happen!

## Wilma Cousins, Long-time AOTFA Member



Wilma Cousins was born in Novinger MO on October 13, 1923. She met and married the love of her life in Salem Oregon in 1942 and went on to raise eight children. In 1980, Elmer and Wilma decided to leave the cold and move to Arizona where she enjoyed forty five years in the warmer weather. Wilma passed peacefully at home on January 6, 2026 at 102 years young. She is survived by three sons, one daughter and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## Ajo Contest Results February 7-8, 2026

<p><b>PeeWee</b> 1 Ivy Barry</p> <p><b>Junior</b> 1 Elie Barry</p> <p><b>Young Adult</b> 1 Suzanne Cox</p> <p><b>Adult</b> 1 Jess Barry 2 Corrine Garey 3 Amy Barry</p>	<p><b>Senior</b> 1 John Kennedy 2 Henry the Fiddler 3 Dave Brinkman 4 Avery Ellisman 5 Katie Bonn 6 Betty Allen</p> <p><b>Senior-Senior</b> 1 Dan Everts</p> <p><b>Twin</b> 1 Elie Barry/Jess Barry 2 Katie Bonn/Dave Brinkman 3 Henry/John Kennedy</p>	<p><b>Trick and Fancy</b> 1 Henry the Fiddler 2 Jess Barry 3 Ivy Barry</p> <p><b>Accompanist</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2 Carla Fewkes 3 John Kennedy 4 Frank Moore 5 Paul Dickerson</p> <p><b>Runner Up</b> 1 Avery Ellisman 2 Betty Allen 3 Katie Bonn</p>	<p><b>Championship</b> 1 Jess Barry 2 Elie Barry 3 John Kennedy 4 Dave Brinkman 5 Henry the Fiddler 6 Ivy Barry</p> <p><b>Judges</b> Janet Shelby Danielle Bettencourt Starr McMullen</p>
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## Tucson Contest Results February 21, 2026

<p><b>Pee Wee</b> 1 Ivy Barry 2 Quentin Garcia 3 Lincoln Gardner 4 Owen Vogt</p> <p><b>Junior-Junior</b> 1 Sawyer Dietrich 2 Isley Dietrich 3 Gabriela Naiman 4 Eileen Sheng 5 Theo Osterman</p> <p><b>Junior</b> 1 Elie Barry 2 Clay Barry</p>	<p><b>Young Adult</b> 1 Joseph Turner</p> <p><b>Adult</b> 1 Nick Coventry 2 Corrine Garey 3 Samantha Madison</p> <p><b>Senior</b> 1 Janet Shelby 2 Starr McMullen 3 Suzette Sommerer 4 Kevin DeRusha 5 Susan Hendrix</p>	<p><b>Young at Heart</b> 1 Peter Rolland 2 Dave Brinkman 3 Betty Allen 4 Laura Barry 5 Ron Allen</p> <p><b>Twin</b> 1 Nick Coventry/ Suzette Sommerer 2 Peter Rolland/Meryl Brown 3 Janet Shelby/Betty Allen</p> <p><b>Trick and Fancy</b> 1 Nick Coventry 2 Suzette Sommerer 3 Peter Rolland</p>	<p><b>Accompanist</b> 1 Dave Brinkman 2/3 Carla Fewkes &amp; Nick Coventry</p> <p><b>Arkansas Traveler</b> 1 Nick Coventry 2 Joseph Turner</p> <p><b>Judges</b> Katie Bonn Bruce Wurst David Shoup</p> <p><b>Youngest Fiddler</b> Lincoln Gardner</p> <p><b>Oldest Fiddler</b> Peter Rolland</p>
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## Memorial Tribute

From **Noreen Johnston**. Salome Fiddlefest March 20 - 22. We will be having a Memorial tribute to all the Arizona Old Time Fiddlers that have passed on. If you would like to participate, just bring a picture (framed or not) and a memory item for the table. See you there.

## Territorial Chapter of AOTFA

The day after Christmas, we were featured in an article in the *Yuma Sun Newspaper*. After that on Dec. 29, there was an interview on the *Early Morning Show* on KYMA Channel 11 with several of our members. Plenty of publicity for the Worthen Memorial Fiddle Contest.

[Yuma Sun Story 1](#)

[Yuma Sun Story 2](#)

[Yuma Sun Story 3](#)

[Yuma Sun Story 4](#)

[KYNA video interview](#)

The Fiddle Contest was well attended. JayDean's workshop was very helpful. She taught us a new way to approach learning a tune quickly. It was *Soapsuds Over The Fence*, and several could play it by memory the following Monday at our tune learning class. We look forward to those competing in the contest to also play at some of our performances. When Henry plays 'metal,' the phones come out for photos. And children are always a 'hit' with the audience. Something about little people playing, people take notice.

We're learning *Little Bertha* from the last newsletter in our tune learning class. *Sugar in the Coffee* has become one of our featured tunes at our performances.

The Tractor Pull performance is behind us. Always a fun event to play at. Seats are at a premium now at our Library performance. It is always sad to tell people they can't come in and watch us because all the chairs are taken and when the chairs are filled, the fire marshal says, no more in the room. People are arriving an hour early, even before the fiddlers, to get a seat.

The attendance at the VFW has also been phenomenal, the tip jar overflowing. We will play at the VFW the 5th Tuesday in March, in addition to the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

Three of our fiddlers/guitarist played with the Accordion Band at the Scandinavian Fest at one of the RV Parks. They sounded great!

And last, we've just finished playing 3 days at the Silver Spur Rodeo, opening gate before the Rodeo begins. That was also featured in the *Yuma Sun Newspaper*. Looking forward - our annual fundraiser, The Yard Sale, will take place on March 5 and 6. We're adding baked goods this year and hope that goes well. St. Patrick's Day actually falls on our Library performance day, so we are practicing a few Irish tunes. We are scheduling a workshop for March 14. We plan to be at Salome March 20-22. And right now, our April Calendar is pretty blank. We'll have to see who is still here and what we can do.

Submitted by Carol O'Brien, secretary and reporter

## Matheson Music Festival 2027

**Brianna** and **Joe** at the [Matheson Music Festival](#) send along a big THANK YOU to all who attended. Next year the dates are **February 18-21, 2027** in Safford, AZ.

## Photos

**Noreen** thinks it is time for a photo update. Please send some photos text, email or snail mail. I am working on putting all the photos on flash drives so everyone can see them, not just an album or two.

Email to [fiddlerslady@aol.com](mailto:fiddlerslady@aol.com) 928-853-3577 696 S Maricopa St Chino Valley AZ 86323

# Yuma Contest Photos



**Grand Champion Division Top 5**



**JayDean's excellent session**



**Danielle and Elie**



**Henry, Paul, and Joe**



**Aaron, Carla and Martin**



*Kevin*



*Aaron the Champion*



*Guy*



*Corrine and Laura*



Ann Duncan took home the ribbon for best in show at the annual Ajo Piecemakers Quilt Show last weekend in the Curley School auditorium. She said Twirl was made with paper piecing. "While it was monotonous sewing the same strips down twenty-two times or each spiral and then ripping off the paper pattern, the look made it all worthwhile," Duncan said. The best large quilt award went to Rebecca Shop, best small to medium to Elaine Murray, and best first timer prize went to Peggy Smith.



Jess Barry was the Grand Champion of the 47th annual Old Time Fiddler's Contest held at the Ajo Community Golf Course on February 5, 6, 7 and 8. Shown with Jess are his wife Amy and daughters Elie and Ivy. The Barrys are a family of musicians.



The guild raffled two quilts. The patriotic one was won by Alan Seaver & Teri Geineau. The other, made with fabric from the late Nancy Wesley's stash, was won by Bonnie Spencec.



Eight year old Ivy Barry was the youngest contestant, 76 year old David Brinkman was one of the older contestants.



Henry the Fiddler performed at the 47th Old Time Fiddler's contest in Ajo.



The show itself was a colorful explosion of fabric art, ranging from small to king-size. Vendors booths along the side of the venue offered supplies for those inspired to try their hands at quilting and the traditional bed turning offered a peek at vintage quilts.



The Arizona Fiddler  
Membership, Renewal or Change of Address  
Annual Dues \$15 Family. Over 80 \$10 Includes Partner

Please Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

If Different Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Man's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's Birthday \_\_\_\_\_  
Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Children Under 18 Living at Home \_\_\_\_\_

- Chapters  
 Rim Country Payson Area  
 SAOTF Tucson Area  
 Territorial Yuma Area  
 Verde Valley Cottonwood Area  
 Independent Anywhere

Members may join one Principal chapter and one associate chapter.

Send dues to Noreen Johnston, Membership Secretary  
696 S Maricopa Street  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

**AOTFA**  
**14210 W. Kiowa Trail**  
**Surprise AZ 85374**

March/April 2026